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EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
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2624

4

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/733,030

Applicant(s)

MOCHIZUKI, MAMORU

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1- 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kadota (US Patent No. 6,697,073).

As to claim 1, Kadota teaches a printing system comprising:

a print requester host(1 in fig. 1); and

a single or a plurality of print requestee connected via a network to said host (11 in fig. 1);

said host abstractly defining an output port to an actual printer as said print requestee printer, for printing (col. 8, lines 49-55).

As to claim 2, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and further teaches upon abstract definition of said output port to said actual printer as said print

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requestee printer, said host automatically selects a specific printer for printing through sequential execution, between said host and said printer on said network, of a retrieval request from said host, a retrieval response from said printer, a print request from said host, and a response to said print request from said printer (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 3, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 2, and further teaches upon occurrence of a print request on said host, said host sends a retrieval request packet to all printers on said network, wherein said printer that has received said retrieval request packet from said host, if enabled for print, sends a retrieval response packet to said host, wherein upon receipt of said retrieval response packet from said printer, said host selects as a requestee candidate a printer from which said host has first received a retrieval response, to send a print request packet to said requestee candidate printer, wherein said requestee candidate printer that has received said print request packet sends a validation response packet to a print request to said host, and wherein upon receipt of said validation response packet from said requestee candidate printer, said host determines said requestee candidate printer as a print requestee to execute print processing (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 4, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and further teaches said printer that has received a retrieval request packet from said host sends a retrieval response packet to said host said retrieval response packet containing communication information on said printer itself, wherein upon receipt of said retrieval response packet from said printers said host sends a print request packet to all printers on said network, said print request packet containing communication information on a printer selected, and wherein upon receipt of said print request packet, said printer

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compares printer communication information contained in said print request packet with its own printer communication information, said printer if coincident recognizing that said printer itself has been selected, to send a validation response packet to said host (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 5, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 1, and further teaches said host displays information indicative of a printer selected on the basis of a printer response packet, on a user interface (col. 8, lines 49-55).

As to claim 6, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 2, and further teaches said host makes a retrieval request to said printers on said network, said retrieval request containing unique printer specific information for specifying a printer, said host automatically selecting a specific printer that conforms with previously entered printer specific information, for printing (col. 8, lines 49-55).

As to claim 7, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 6, and further teaches said host sends a retrieval request packet to all printers on said network with unique printer specific information designated, wherein upon receipt of said retrieval request packet from said host said printer sends a retrieval response packet to said host providing that said printer is enabled for print and that said designated unique printer specific information is coincident with its own printer specific information, wherein

upon receipt of said retrieval response packet from said printer said host when said received printer specific information coincides with said designated printer specific information sends a print request packet to said printer having coincident printer specific information, wherein a specific printer that has received said print request packet sends a validation response packet to a print request to said host, and wherein upon receipt of said

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validation response packet from said printer, said host determines said printer as a print requestee for print processing (col. 8, lines 49-55).

As to claim 8, Kadota discloses a printing method for performing a printing operation by selective use of a single or a plurality of printers connected via a network from a print requester host, said method comprising the step of:

abstractly defining on said host an output port to an actual printer as a print requestee printer, to perform said printing operation (col. 8, lines 49-55).

As to claim 9, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 8, and further teaches

upon abstract definition on said host of said output port to said actual printer as said print requestee printer, a specific printer is automatically selected for printing through sequential execution, between said host and said printer on said network, of a retrieval request from said host a retrieval response from said printer, a print request from said host, and a response to said print request from said printer (col. 8, lines 49-55).

As to claim 10, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 9, and further teaches

upon occurrence of a print request on said host, a retrieval request packet is sent to all printers on said network, wherein

the printer that has received said retrieval request packet from said host, if enabled for print, sends a retrieval response packet to said host, wherein

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upon receipt of said retrieval response packet from said printer, said host selects as a requestee candidate a printer from which said host has first received a retrieval response, to send a print request packet to said requestee candidate printer, wherein

said requestee candidate printer that has received said print request packet sends a validation response packet to a print request to said host, and wherein

upon receipt of said validation response packet from said requestee candidate printer, said host determines said requestee candidate printer as a print requestee to execute print processing (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 11, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 8, and further teaches said printer that has received a retrieval request packet from said host sends a retrieval response packet to said host, said retrieval response packet containing communication information on said printer itself, wherein

upon receipt of said retrieval response packet from said printer said host sends a print request packet to all printers on said network, said print request packet containing communication information on a printer selected and wherein

upon receipt of said print request packet, said printer compares printer communication information contained in said print request packet with said its own printer communication information, said printer if coincident recognizing that said printer itself has been selected, to send a validation response packet to said host (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 12, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 8, and further teaches said host displays information indicative of a printer selected on the basis of a printer response packet, on a user interface (fig. 2).

As to claim 13, Kadota discloses every feature discussed in claim 9, and further teaches comprising the steps of : making a retrieval request from said host to said printers on said network, said retrieval request containing unique printer specific information for specifying a printer; and automatically selecting a specific printer that conforms with previously entered printer specific information, to perform said printing operation (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 14. Kadota teaches a printing method according to claim 13, wherein said host sends a retrieval request packet to all printers on said network with unique printer specific information designated, wherein

upon receipt of said retrieval request packet from said host, said printer sends a retrieval response packet to said host providing that said printer is enabled for print and that said designated unique printer specific information is coincident with its own printer specific information wherein

upon receipt of said retrieval response packet from said printer, said host when said received printer specific information coincides with said designated printer specific information sends a print request packet to said printer having coincident printer specific information, wherein

a specific printer that has received said print request packet sends a validation response packet to a print request to said host, wherein

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upon receipt of said validation response packet from said printer, said host determines said printer as a print requestee to execute print processing (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 15. Kadota teaches print requester apparatus for performing a printing operation by selective use of any one of a plurality of printers connected via a network, said apparatus comprising: an output port that is abstractly defined as an output path to an actual printer when a print request takes place; and a printer retrieval unit which, upon abstract definition of said output port, automatically selects a specific printer for printing through sequential execution, between said printer retrieval unit and said printer on said network, of a retrieval request from said host, a retrieval response from said printer, a print request from said host, and a response to said print request from said printer (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 16. Kadota teaches a print requester apparatus according to claim 15, wherein upon occurrence of a print request, said printer retrieval unit sends a retrieval request packet to all printers on said network, wherein upon receipt of a retrieval response packet from a print enabled printer, said printer retrieval unit selects as a requestee candidate a printer from which

said printer retrieval unit has first received a retrieval response, to send a print request packet to said requestee candidate printer; upon receipt from said requestee candidate printer of a validation response packet to said print request packet said printer retrieval unit determines said requestee candidate printer as a print requestee to execute print processing (col. 8, lines 24-49).

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As to claim 17, Kadota teaches A print requester apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said printer retrieval unit displays information indicative of a printer selected on the basis of a printer response packet, on a user interface (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 18. Kadota teaches print requester apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said printer retrieval unit makes a retrieval request to said printers on said network, said retrieval request containing unique printer specific information for specifying a printer, said printer retrieval unit automatically selecting a specific printer that conforms with previously entered printer specific information, to perform a printing operation (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 19. Kadota teaches a printer connected via a network to a print requester host, said printer comprising:

a retrieval response unit for allowing itself to be selected as a print requestee through a sequential execution of a retrieval response to a retrieval request from said host and a response to a print request from said host. (col. 8, lines 24-49).

As to claim 20. Kadota teaches a printer according to claim 19, wherein said retrieval response unit issues a retrieval response packet if it is enabled for print when accepting a retrieval request packet from said host, and wherein upon a receipt of a print request packet from said host, said retrieval response unit issues a validation response packet to a print request so as to allow said host side to determine said printer as a print requestee (col. 8, lines 24-49).

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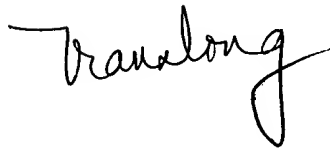
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran

Aug. 5, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Tran", written in black ink.